

Samuel Huston College, Austin, Texas

R. S. Lovinggood, A.M., President

IN 1883 the Freedmen's Aid Society purchased six acres of land in Austin, Tex., for the purpose of erecting a school for Negroes.

Mr. Samuel Huston, of Marengo, Ia. (for whom the school is named), gave \$9,000 to the enterprise, and the foundation of a building was laid.

The financial crisis of 1893 put a stop to the work and nothing was done for nearly five years. In 1898, by direction of Dr. J. W. Hamilton (now bishop), then secretary of the society, work was begun, only to stop shortly, to be resumed again in 1900 under the direction of Secretary Dr. W. P. Thirkield.

In November, 1900, with R. S. Lovinggood as president, the school was opened, with the coöperation and assistance of the members of the West Texas Conference.

Only one story of the building was completed. There was no furniture and no money. At the close of the seventh month of school the enrollment was 205. Many were turned away because of lack of accommodations.

Rapid Growth and Progress

The school has made rapid growth and progress. The property is valued at \$40,000. There are two principal buildings: Burrowes Hall, the main building erected largely through the generosity of Mr. E. S. Burrowes, of Maine, and the Boys' Dormitory, recently erected at a cost of \$18,000. The rooms for girls are in the main building.

In 1908 there were 375 students and 17 teachers. The expenses were \$21,000. Of this amount \$18,600 came from the students and \$2,400 from the Freedmen's Aid Society. The library has 4,000 volumes.

The Eliza Dee Industrial Home for girls, was opened in October, 1904, with accommodations for 14 girls. Its aim is to develop Christian character, and teach economy, energy, and neatness in domestic science.

President Lovinggood says: "We teach the English branches, College Preparatory course, a teachers' Normal course, plain sewing, millinery, dressmaking, cooking, housekeeping, English Bible, printing, and music."

Social Settlement Work

The college has inaugurated a new plan of endeavor which might be called "Social Settlement work." The special aim is to improve the home life of the people.

The work is begun in the student's home. Each student is requested to do something to improve his own home, by cleaning the front yard, fixing the broken panes, planting flowers, hanging the gate, painting the house, etc. The Bible in the home, home decoration, etc., are considered. The question of



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economy, the purchase of land, the building of houses with more than one room, etc., are considered in proper order. Each student is required to report the condition of his community and to note the improvements. Blanks are furnished, and he is required to make a report of his work along this line, with other statistics of the social, moral, and material condition of the people.